

Jericho Energy Task Force Meeting, March 10, 2016

Members present: Eric Bishop, Larry Lamb, Catherine McMains, Ceilidh Peden-Spear, Kathy Voight Walsh (chair) and new attendee Donna Feisinger.

The meeting started with introductions all around for the new attendee Donna. She lives in Jericho and has been interested in renewable energy for quite some time.

The state climatologist presentation was well attended with about 38 people including the JETF members. She was well spoken and quite engaging. The high school students who were thought might attend, did not. MMCTV videoed the event.

For the GMP event at the DRML on April 1 at 7pm, GMP will be sending 3 people. They will be discussing their new home initiative, an energy home renovation program as well as the Tesla home battery. Larry printed up and passed out the posters. Ceilidh will put posters in Essex and Richmond, Eric will put them up in Underhill and Jericho, and Stuart will be given the posters for Jericho Center. Donna asked if we collected e-mail addresses from the public attending the events. A list of the e-mails could be used to create an e-mail blast for future events. The group thought this was a good idea. Ceilidh offered to start the list with the GMP event. Placement of the sandwich board and waterproofing the poster was discussed. Phyl will see about placement on the Clark's sign as well as putting out a press release for the event as GMP does not do that. For FPF postings first Eric, then Kathy, Phyl and Ceilidh will post. Kathy will make the poster and have it laminated for the sandwich board. Ceilidh also asked about posting the event on the bulleting boards at the schools. She offered to do that as well. Catherine will bring popcorn, Kathy cider, Ceilidh a baked good and Phyl will be asked to bring mugs to the event.

The solar subcommittee of Kathy, Reed and Catherine met on Feb. 22 for the first time. This was in response to the continuing requests to consider municipal solar. The purpose was defined to make the Town of Jericho's electric use as green and cost effective as possible. Questions to be answered include: how much electricity does the Town garage use (VEC territory), what are the parameters to help the SelectBoard choose, if any, a solar provider, what is the annual electric use of the Town Hall (GMP territory), what are other towns doing for solar and do we partner with Underhill for any of this? Other questions that arose are we still paying for cow power and how much per month and with 3-phase power to the buildings, how does this affect net metering? We also need to collect current data as well as a year back. As Andrew had already done some of this research, it was decided to ask him to help or at least provide what he has learned. Kathy will work on collecting what information she can prior to the next subcommittee meeting, date yet to be determined.

At Town Meeting, folks did stop by the table to collect materials and chat. The icicle contest with its cancelled banner was engaging. Ceilidh was thanked for cleaning up and breaking down the table.

Ceilidh reported that there was nothing to report on the battery challenge contest for the schools. She wondered if there were ways to engage and bring in high school students.

Kathy gave a brief history of PACE. There was an initial problem with determining the financing, but now Opportunities Credit Union is the financing agency. Kathy said sample ballot language is available for the required Town vote. We do need to look at the list of other Towns doing or considering the PACE program to ask how the program is going and what are the problems. We should develop a list of questions for this. The big issue will be to educate the community to see this as the opportunity it is and not an obligation.

For the annual re-organization Kathy will continue as chair and Phyl as recording secretary.